

Message Text

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ACTION OIC-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 589

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DEPT ALSO PASS STR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: GATT ETRD

SUBJ: GATT COUNCIL MEETING FEB 24

REF: A) GENEVA 737; B) STATE 22974

1. GATT COUNCIL WILL MEET FEB 24 TO CONSIDER REPORT OF BUDGET COMMITTEE ON STAFF COMPLAINTS ON SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES (REFTELS). BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLARK REPORTS D.G. LONG INTENDS APPEAL TO COUNCIL DELEGATES THAT THEY AGREE TO PRINCIPLE OF MAKING AD-HOC ADJUSTMENTS FOR GATT STAFF EITHER IN LIEU OF REFERRING MATTER TO ICSC OR TO COVER INTERIM PERIOD WHILE ICSC CONSIDER MATTER. IN VIEW LONG'S STATEMENTS REFLECTED IN PARA 2 OF REFTL (A), THIS IS HARDLY SURPRISING.

2. MISSION WISHES CALL SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PARA 5 OF REFTL (A) RE GATT STAFF REQUEST TO DISTRIBUTE PART OF 1974 BUDGET SURPLUS TO STAFF, AS LONG ALSO LIKELY TO APPEAL TO COUNCIL FOR REVERSAL OF CONTRACTING PARTIES' DECISION ALREADY TAKEN. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT BUDGET COMMITTEE IN OCT. 1974, DECIDED APPLY 1974 SURPLUS BOTH TO BUILDING FUND AND TO REDUCE 1975 CONTRIBUTIONS. THIS WAS APPROVED BY CP'S ON 19 NOV. SECRETARIAT SAYS FINAL 1974 SURPLUS WAS 3,035,000 SWISS FRANCS, I.E. 535,000 SWISS

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FRANCS LARGER THAN ANTICIPATED. (NOTE: THIS ISSUE

IS MORE EMOTIONAL WITH GATT STAFF, SINCE GATT BUDGET IS IN SWISS FRANCS. UNLIKELY MANY OTHER GENEVA-LOCATED STAFFS, THEY CAN ACTUALLY SEE THEIR OWN REMUNERATION "LOSSES" BUILD UP IN THE FORM OF A BUDGET SURPLUS).

3. IN VIEW REFTEL (B) AND PREVIOUS, WE CONSTRUE OUR INSTRUCTIONS AS FOLLOWS:

A) SPEAK AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.

B) AVOID ACCEDING TO ANY SOLUTIONS WHICH INCONSISTENT WITH COMMON SYSTEM I.E., ASSUME WE SHOULD SUPPORT BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (REFTEL (A)) RE REFERRING MATTER TO ICSC IN NEW YORK.

(C) DECLINE TO DETERMINE WHAT IS WITHIN BOUNDS OF COMMON SYSTEM, BUT REFER ANY PROPOSALS TO WASHINGTON.

(D) AVOID INsofar AS POSSIBLE EITHER MAKING STATEMENTS OR ENDORSING ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT PRECIPITATE WORK SLOWDOWN DURING MTN.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF WHETHER OUR UNDERSTANDINGS ARE CORRECT AND ANY ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE WASHINGTON DEEMS APPROPRIATE. ALSO, GUIDANCE REQUESTED ON HOW REACT TO PROPOSAL MENTIONED IN PARA 2 ABOVE ON DISTRIBUTING 1974 SURPLUS. DALE

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